

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 720
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL LEADERS REACT TO ELECTION

1. LEADERS OF THE MAJOR NATIONAL PARTIES HAVE GIVEN THE PRESS
THEIR PUBLIC REACTION TO THE STILL UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS.
WINNERS
WERE SUITABLY EXPANSIVE, WHILE THE LOSERS HAD SOME COMPLAINTS,
BUT ALL ACCEPTED THE RESULTS AS ANNOUNCED. SUMMARIES FOLLOW.

2. THE WINNERS:
--UCD (SUAREZ- LED CENTRISTS): 106 SEATS AS RESULTS BEGAN TO COME IN,
AND

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UNIDENTIFIED PARTY SPOKESMAN TERMED THEIR PLURALITY "THE
VICTORY OF ALL SPANIARDS". ON JUNE 18, IN A TELEVISED
INTERVIEW, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ TERMED THE PEACEFUL ELECTION
DAY "EXTRAORDINARY", A TRIBUTE TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE, AND
WENT ON TO PRAISE THEIR MATURITY AND PROFOUND CAPACITY FOR
REFLECTION. HE FURTHER REVEALED THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED
FELIPE GONZALEZ (PSOE SECGEN) TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR

LEADING HIS PARTY INTO SECOND PLACE.

--PSOE (SOCIALIST WORKERS): 118 SEATS SEC GEN GONZALEZ, IN A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY APPEARING IN THE PSOE NEWSPAPER "EL SOCIALISTA", ATTRIBUTED THE PARTY'S SUCCESS TO ITS HISTORIC REPUTATION, YET PERCEIVED CAPACITY FOR RENOVATION, AND ITS CHARACTER AS "THE PARTY OF THE ALTERNATIVE", THE PARTY OF SOCIALISM CAPABLE OF EXPRESSING THE NEW CONCERNS OF SPANISH SOCIETY. SEPARATELY, IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW, GONZALEZ NOTED POINTEDLY THAT THE PSOE HAD EMERGED AS THE GREATEST POLITICAL FORCE AND LARGEST PARTY (AS DISTINCT FROM ELECTORAL ALLIANCE LIKE THE UCD) IN SPAIN.

3. THE LOSERS:

--ALIANZA POPULAR (FRAGA-LED CONSERVATIVES) 17 SEATS SEC GEN FRAGA DECLARED THAT AP WOULD CONTINUE ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND OFFERED "LOYAL COOPERATION" TO ALL POLITICAL GROUPS, TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC TRANQUILITY, STABILITY, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THE SAME STATEMENT HE SOMEWHAT SPOILED THE TONE BY COMPLAINING OF THE "INADEQUATE ELECTORAL LAW" AND CONDITIONS "NOTORIOUSLY FAVORABLE" TO THE GOVERNMENT PARTY.

--PARTIDO SOCIALISTA POPULAR (TIERNO-LED SOCIALISTS): 6 SEATS PSP PRESIDENT TIERNO DECLARED HIMSELF "VERY CONTENT AND SATISFIED" WITH HIS PARTY'S SHOWING, SINCE IN HIS VIEW THEIRS WERE "QUALITY VOTES", DECLARING "OUR VOTE WAS FROM CONVICTION AND NOT FROM PROPAGANDA."

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--PARTIDO COMUNISTA DE ESPAÑA (COMMUNISTS): 19 SEATS SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO TERMED HIMSELF BASICALLY SATISFIED WITH HIS PARTY'S SHOWING, SAYING THAT THE EFFECTS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA COULD NOT ALL BE OVERCOME DUE TO LACK OF TIME. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE PCE VOTE WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREASED IF UNDER-21 VOTERS AND MORE SPANISH WORKERS ABROAD COULD HAVE VOTED.

--FEDERACION DE LA DEMOCRACIA CRISTIANA (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS): ZERO SEATS A PARTY SPOKESMAN TERMED THE ELECTION RESULTS "DISHEARTENING AND WORRISOME". FDC PRESIDENT RUIZ-GIMENEZ ASSERTED THAT TWO FACTORS WERE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS: THE DECISION TO DISPERSE PRINCIPLE PARTY LEADERS IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES, AND THE PRESENCE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS UNDER ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA IN THE UCD COALITION, DIVIDING THE PARTY'S SUPPORTERS. THE FDC SUFFERED THE MOST CRUSHING DEFEAT OF ANY SERIOUS PARTY, GROUND BETWEEN THE CENTER AND THE PSOE THOUGH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC BASQUE PNV TOOK EIGHT SEATS AND THE CATALANS TWO. STABLER

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